Commander J. Todd Black
Executive Officer

United States Navy

Commander Black was commissioned in 1986 through the NROTC program at The Pennsylvania State University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Foreign Service and International Politics. In 1998 he received a Masters degree in National Security from the United States Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He is an Information Technology level 2 and Life Cycle Support level 1 acquisition workforce member. In 2006 he completed both the Information Assurance Specialist and Chief Information Officer certification programs through the Information Resource Management College at the National Defense University, graduating as a Distinguished Graduate in both programs.

Commander Black reported to USS THOMAS C. HART (FF-1092) for his first afloat tour where he served as Gunnery Officer, CIC Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant from 1987-1990. His afloat department head tours were in USS TAYLOR (FFG-50) as Engineer Officer in 1993-1994, and as a Space Assessor and Office Manager at the CINCLANTFLT Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) from 1994 to 1997. His next afloat tour was Executive Officer in USS GARY (FFG-51) where he conducted the first Frigate Hull Swap, exchanging crews between USS GARY and USS THACH (FFG-43) in Yokosuka Japan. After his Executive Officer tour, Commander Black was assigned as Chief Staff Officer, Destroyer Squadron TWO EIGHT in 2000, where he deployed with the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group immediately after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In 2002, he was assigned as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Information Systems (N6) at Commander, Carrier Group FOUR, responsible for the Information Systems training of all East Coast Carrier Strike Group staffs, as well as overseeing staff transition to the Navy and Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI).

During extensive underway operations, Commander Black deployed to the Mediterranean Sea three times, and once to the Western Pacific as part of the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training '99 (CARAT 99) exercise.   Additionally, he assisted in the investigation of the USS IOWA (BB-61) gun turret explosion in 1989, and served in Operations ABLE VIGIL (Cuban migrant recovery 1993), SHARP GUARD (Adriatic Operations 1993), DESERT STORM (Red Sea embargo enforcement 1993), NOBLE EAGLE (Homeland defense with USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group 2001) and ENDURING FREEDOM (Mediterranean Maritime Interdiction Operations 2001-2002). Finally, at Commander Carrier Group FOUR, he oversaw communications systems and information assurance training and certification of five Carrier Strike Group's Information Technology staffs.

Shore assignments include the Attack Team Training Branch Head at the Fleet ASW Training Center, Atlantic from 1990-1992, where he received the 6301S Anti-Submarine Warfare demonstrated subspecialty code, and where he was the Fleet Project Team leader that developed and introduced the 14A12 single ship team training to Fleet operation. Additionally, he served as the assistant Operations and Global '98 war-game Officer at the United States Naval War College's War Gaming Department in 1998 after completing graduate school. In 2004 he was assigned to the Space and Naval Warfare System Center, Norfolk, as the Fleet Support Officer, overseeing life cycle support and installations management for sixty Navy combat support software systems worldwide. In February 2007, he was assigned as the Executive Officer at SPAWAR Norfolk.

Commander Black's personal commendations include the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), and the Navy Achievement Medal (three awards).